

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 2, 3, and 9-11 have been amended to more clearly depict the semi-circular or convex upper surfaces of the first and second support sections.

Reference numerals 53 and 55 have been added to Fig. 2 to more clearly point to the upper surfaces of the first and second support sections.

The lines associated with reference numerals 50, 52, 54, and 56 in Fig. 2 have been amended to more clearly point to the attachment structures (50), the first and second support sections (52, 54), and the channels (56).

The amendments to the figures are supported, for example, by the originally filed figures and in the specification at page 5, lines 15-19. No new matter is introduced by the amendments.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 13-28 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 12 is cancelled, claims 1, 5, and 8 are amended, and no new claims are added. No new matter is introduced by the amendments.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 15-28 and the indication of allowability claims 2, 4, 8, and 10-14. In view of the following comments, Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11 and 13-28.

Drawings and Specification Objections

The Examiner objected to the drawings and specification. Applicant has amended Figs. 2, 3, and 9-11 and the specification at page 5. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 5 for an informality. Applicant thanks the Examiner for a careful reading of the claims. Applicant has amended the informality in claim 5 and respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

Claims Indicated As Allowable

Claims 2, 4, 8, and 10-14 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 is amended to include the features of claim 12, which was indicated as allowable and depends directly from claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore now in a form indicated as allowable. As such, Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claim 1 and claims 2-11, 13, and 14 depending therefrom.

Because only allowed claims and claims indicated as allowable and dependent claims thereof remain, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested. The amendment of claim 1 should not be considered acquiescence to the assertions regarding patentability by the Examiner, and Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of original claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom in a subsequent application.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



Erik M. Drange
Registration No. 57,750

Customer No. 24113
Patterson, Thuente, Skaar & Christensen, P.A.
4800 IDS Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100
Telephone: (612) 349-5740